

# DISASTER ASSISTANCE

## Federal Disaster Loans for

Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes U. S. Small Business Administration  
Disaster Area 4 Office

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## SBA Declares Disaster Area Due to B&B Complex Wildfire; Financial Assistance Now Available for Small Businesses

**Sacramento, CA** - Hector V. Barreto, Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today approved Governor Theodore Kulongoski's request for an economic injury disaster declaration to alleviate the adverse financial impact that the B&B Complex wildfire has had on small businesses. On August 19, 2003, the Booth and Bear Butte fires began in central Oregon. Those fires eventually merged into one large fire now known as the B&B Complex wildfire. SBA's action today makes available low-interest disaster loans to small businesses directly affected by those fires that caused the closure of Highway 20/126 for approximately two weeks.

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) are now available to small businesses in **Deschutes and Jefferson** Counties, as well as the contiguous counties of **Crook, Harney, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Linn, Marion, Wasco and Wheeler**. Small businesses may qualify for EIDLs of up to \$1.5 million to help pay their fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact.

According to Philip Gentry, Portland District Director, SBA is opening a disaster office in Sisters to assist small businesses in applying for these low-interest loans. "To provide maximum help to affected small businesses, an SBA loan officer will be on hand at **RE/MAX Town & Country Realty** located at **178 S. Elm Street (at the corner of S. Elm Street and Hood Avenue)** in Sisters to meet with each disaster victim. The office will be open from **Tuesday, September 30** through **Thursday, October 16**. The office will be closed on Monday, October 13 in observance of Columbus Day. The hours of operation will be **Mondays through Fridays from 9 am to 1 pm**. SBA will answer specific questions about how a disaster loan may help each victim recover from the disaster, and will provide one-on-one assistance in completing their loan applications," Gentry explained.

Alfred E. Judd, SBA Disaster Area Director, said "Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only, and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of **3.1%** and a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse economic effects of the disaster."

Businesses unable to visit SBA's disaster office may obtain information and loan applications by writing to SBA at P.O. Box 13795, Sacramento, CA 95853-4795, or by calling toll-free at (800) 488-5323. Hearing impaired individuals may call (916) 566-7388.

The deadline to file an application is **June 28, 2004**.